

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 MC-02
ACDA-07 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2723

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5413

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, US

SUBJECT: "OFFICIAL" REACTION TO THE ANDERSON STORY ON THE RE-
PROCESSING A-7 ISSUE

REF: NEW DELHI 5306

1. UNDER THE TITLE "INDIA HOPES CARTER WILL UNDO KISSINGER
DEAL," THE "STATESMAN" OF APRIL 14 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING STORY
WHICH PURPORTS TO REFLECT THE REACTION OF "OFFICIAL SOURCES"
TO THE ANDERSON STORY ON THE REPROCESSING/A-7 ISSUE (STATE 81515).
THE STORY OF A DEAL BY FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WITH
PAKISTAN WAS SAID TO HAVE CAUSED "MUCH ANXIETY" AMONG THE INDIAN
SOURCES, WHO ARE SAID TO BE "RELUCTANT JUST NOW TO COMMENT
PUBLICLY."

2. BEGIN TEXT OF "STATESMAN" ARTICLE:

(A) "THE DISCLOSURE OF A SECRET UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE USA
AND PAKISTAN ON A MASSIVE ARMS SALE TO THE LATTER HAS CAUSED
MUCH ANXIETY HERE ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL SOURCES ARE RELUCTANT JUST
NOW TO COMMENT PUBLICLY.

(B) "THE RELUCTANCE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE NEW GOVT'S HOPE THAT
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MAY YET BE ABLE TO UNDO THE COMMITMENT
MADE BY DR. KISSINGER.

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(C) "IT IS FURTHER HOPED THAT THE KISSINGER COMMITMENT IS ONLY
HANGOVER FROM THE DAYS OF THE NIXON-KISSINGER PRO-PAKISTAN
"TILT". THE SECRET UNDERSTANDING IS OF A PIECE WITH DR. KISSIN-
GER'S PATTERN OF FUNCTIONING AND THE FIRST IMPULSE IS THAT
THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO HONOUR A SECRET
UNDERSTANDING OF DUBIOUS ORIGIN.

(D) "THIS, ON THE FACE OF IT, MAY BE AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION BUT

GIVEN THE DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO PUT INDO-U.S. RELATIONS ON A SOUNDER MORE MATURE BASIS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE USA MAY TAKE A HARD SECOND LOOK AT THE SOUTH ASIAN SCENE BEFORE AUTHORIZING THE KISSINGER DEAL.

(E) "INDIA, FOR HER PART, HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT NON-ALIGNMENT HEREAFTER WILL MEAN "GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT" NOT TILTED IN FAVOUR OF ONE OR THE OTHER POWER BLOC. THIS WAS AMPLY BROUGHT OUT AT THE JUST ENDED FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED BURAU IN NEW DELHI WHEN INDIA TOOK A VERY FIRM POSITION ON THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION.

(F) "THE MAJORITY OF THE BUREAU MEMBERS TENDED TO GO WITH THE CUBANS AND A FEW OTHERS IN URGING SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO. NEW DELHI COULD WELL HAVE KEPT QUIET. BUT IT DID NOT. IT DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN MERELY ASSERTING THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND DEMANDING INDEPENDENCE. OBVIOUSLY, THE CASE WAS RESTED ON THE FACT THAT THE PRO-INDEPENDENCE PUERTO RICAN PARTY HAD MUSTERED NO MORE THAN 6 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS. THE PARTY FAVOURING CONTINUANCE OF THE LINKS WITH THE USA HAD TRIUMPHED OVERWHELMINGLY.

(G)" IT IS HARDLY LIKELY THAT ANY PREVIOUS INDIAN GOVT WOULD HAVE BOTHERED TO MAKE THE DISTINCTION. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, OBSERVERS HERE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE USA WOULD--AND NOT AS A QUID PRO QUO--TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHANGE THAT HAS JUST TAKEN PLACE HERE. NOT THAT THE NEW GOVT IS GOING TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO RESTORE GOOD HEALTH TO INDO-U.S. RELATIONS; BUT IT SURELY DOES NOT INTEND TO RUB THE USA ON THE WRONG SIDE".

END TEXT
SCHNEIDER

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Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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